

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We write to request additional information regarding actions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a chemical class used in firefighting and by industry in the production of products including Teflon and Scotchguard.¹ Associated human health risks include cancer, immune effects, birth defects, and liver effects.² According to the Environmental Working Group, PFAS may be present in drinking water systems across the country that serve up to 110 million Americans.³

EPA continues to withhold critical public health information on PFAS from Congress and the public. Last month, members of the Committee wrote to you regarding EPA political appointees engaging with staff at the White House to impede plans by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to release an assessment of PFAS. To date, the study has still not been released. Last month's National Leadership Summit on PFAS excluded members of the public, the press, and others. At one point, a reporter was physically removed from the building. Taken together, these actions serve to undermine public awareness and continue the troubling pattern of secrecy by the Trump EPA.

We are deeply concerned that these ongoing EPA regulatory and policy failures will undermine the ability of the Agency to effectively address human health risks, including those related to PFAS and other toxic chemicals. EPA recently proposed a rule to severely restrict the use of certain public health data and related research findings, while also giving the Administrator discretion to exempt some studies from the proposal's requirements on a case-by-

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Understanding PFAS in the Environment (Feb. 26, 2018) (www.epa.gov/sciencematters/understanding-pfas-environment).

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *FACT SHEET: PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisories* (Nov. 2016) (www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf).

³ Environmental Working Group, *Report: Up to 110 Million Americans Could Have PFAS-Contaminated Drinking Water* (May 22, 2018).

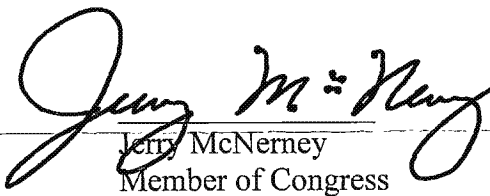
case basis.⁴ If finalized, this proposal could limit the type of information used to develop toxicity values for PFAS by preventing EPA from considering studies that include confidential medical records. Furthermore, we are troubled that, in a recent interview, a senior EPA official was unable to explain how this proposal could impact the Agency's efforts to protect the public from PFAS.⁵

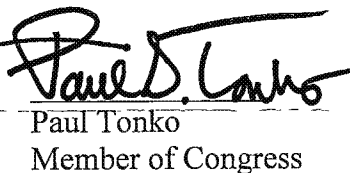
In order to more fully understand how the EPA proposal to restrict the Agency's use of certain public health data will impact its ability to address human health risks associated with PFAS, we request that you respond to the following no later than June 20, 2018:

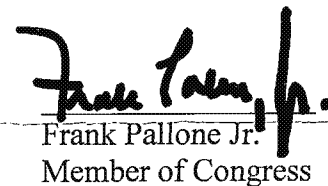
1. Please provide a list of all members of the Action Development Workgroup for the proposed "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science" rulemaking, including name, title, and EPA office.
- ~~2. Provide copies of all comments or feedback provided by EPA staff, including but not limited to members of the Action Development Workgroup and staff of the Office of Ground and Drinking Water, on the proposed "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science" rulemaking.~~
3. Provide a list of all upcoming EPA plans to visit communities impacted by PFAS including the event date, location, list of invitees, and whether the event is open to the press.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Teresa Frison in Rep. Jerry McNerney's office at 202-225-1947.

Sincerely,


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress

⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science*, 83 Fed. Reg. 18768 (Apr. 30, 2018) (proposed rule).

⁵ *Science Proposal Muddies Reviews of Toxic Nonstick Chemicals*, E&E News (May 24, 2018).